(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Minister's was held on 27th June 1997 at New Delhi primarily to discuss the Draft National Policy alongwith other matters like Infrastructure Development for Tourism, Rationalisation of Tax Structure, Implementation of Centrally Assisted Projects, Inter State Movement of Vehicles, Guidelines for Eco-Tourism Development, Celebration of 50th Year of India's Independence, Draft task Force Report on Tourism Development in North Eastern States; etc.

(c) and (d) The Indian Association of Tour Operators made a presentation in the State Tourism Minister's Conference, highlighting issues pertaining to Tourism. Some of these issues have been reflected in the Resolutions of the Meeting.

गुजरात में नई पर्यटन परियोजनाओं के लिए जिलों का चयन

762. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात के वे कौन-कौन से जिले हैं जिन्हें सरकार की नई पर्यटन नीति के अंतर्गत नए पर्यटन स्थलों के चयन में सम्मिलित किया गया है;

(ख) इन जिलों में कच्छ और बनासकांठा में कौन-कौन से अधोषित पर्यटन स्थल हैं जिन्हें राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में घोषित करने का प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) क्या धौलावीरा पर्यटन स्थल को भी ऐसे स्थलों में सम्मिलित किया गया है; और

(घ) उक्त स्थान पर एक पर्यटन क्षेत्र के सतत विकास के लिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर की सुविधाओं को मुहैया कराने हेतु क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री श्रीकान्त जैना): (क) सरकार की राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन नीति के प्रारूप में किसी पर्यटक स्थल को विनिर्दिष्ट नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि पर्यटक केन्द्रों का अभिनिर्धारण एवं विकास करना, मुख्यत: संबंधित राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है।

(ख) पर्यटन विभाग किसी भी स्थल को राष्ट्रीय स्थल घोषित नहीं करता है।

(ग) और (घ) पर्यटन विभाग ने धौलावीरा में पर्यटक सुविधाओं के निर्माण हेतु वर्ष 1997-98 में वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए एक परियोजना को प्राथमिकता प्रदान की है।

Five Special Tourism Areas under NAP

763. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five special tourism areas have been identified under the National Action Plan on tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such areas are in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how Government propose to develop this area?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. the special Tourism Areas identified are Bekal in Kerala, Puri in Orissa, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Diu and Muttukadu-Mamallapuram Beach in Tamil Nadu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Completion of tourism projects in Gujarat

764. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism projects in Gujarat sanctioned by the Government in the current Plan;

(b) the details of the projects completed so far, district-wise;

(c) the number of projects so far not included in the current Plan and details of the projects under completion;

(d) whether Government are aware of tourist potential of the Harappan culture hidden near village Dholavira Bhachali, in District of Kutch; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to encourage the students of archaeological research and develop this place as a tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Central Financial Assistance for Tourism Projects is provided to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them. 7 projects have been prioritised for financial assistance for the year 1997-98.

(b) The centrally assisted projects completed by the State Government since VIIth Five Year Plan period are the following:—

(i) Haveli Cottages at Ahmedpur Mandvi Beach (Junagadh Distt.)

(ii) Cafetaria at Somnath (Junagadh Distt.)

(iii) Wayside facilities at Limbdi (Surendra Nagar Distt.)

(iv) Highway facilities at Ankleshwar (Bharuch Distt.)

(v) Construction of dormitories at Pavagadh (Panchamahal Distt.)

(c) The projects prioritised for central assistance in consultation with the State Governments each year are sanctioned on receipt of complete and detailed proposals as per the guide guidelines. 25 projects sanctioned during different years are under various stages of completion by State Government. These include Tourist Complexes, Beach Resorts, Cottages, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Reception Centres, Flood lighting, Public conveniences, etc.

(d) and (e) The Department of Tourism has prioritised a project to provide financial assistance during 1997-98 for creating tourist facilities at Dholavira.

Complaints lodged by foreign tourists

765. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1996-97, country-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) the number of complaints lodged by these visitors and nature thereof;

(d) the action taken by the authorities on these complaints; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taked by Government to encourage inflow of more tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourists who visited India from major source markets during 1996-97 were as follows:—

S.No.	Country	Estimated Foreign Tourist Arrivals
1.	U.K.	368064
2.	Bangladesh	332544
3.	U.S.A.	231172
4.	Sri Lanka	110656
5.	Japan	100691
6.	Germany	100418
7.	France	94487
8.	Canada	76391
9.	Malaysia	55960
10.	Italy	50541
11.	Australia	49413
12.	Singapore	48325
13.	Nepal	43913
14.	Pakistan	41576
15.	Netherland	41485
16.	Switzerland	35499
17.	Spain	24716
18.	Others	528587
	TOTAL	2334438

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1996-97 is Rs. 10417.57 crores.

(c) and (d) During 1996-97, 127 complaints were received by the Department of Tourism. These complaints were mostly from overseas tourists and related to air and road transport services, cheating by shopkeepers, etc. All the complaints were acknowledged and taken up with the concerned authorities for enquiry and redressal.